

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Spotlight Is on Latin American Countries

Southern Republics Join United States in Observing Pan American Day



UNITED NATIONS
CHILEAN SECRETARY. In all probability, she can take dictation in Spanish and in English. She works at the UN.



HEINLE FROM MONKMEYER
YOUNG BOY tends his "flock" in Mexico. Stock raising is important there.



BLACK STAR
HAITIAN MOTHER and child. Many different racial types are found among people in Latin American countries.



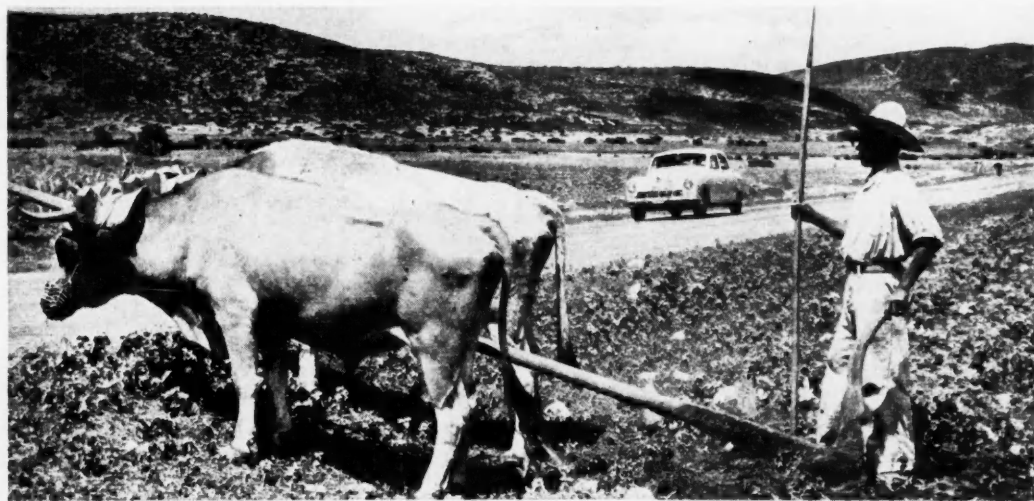
INSTITUTE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
MODERN CITIES like Sao Paulo, Brazil, contrast sharply with . . .



W. C. LANE
... MOUNTAIN VILLAGES such as this one in Colombia's highlands



WEDGE FROM THREE LIONS
SHOP COURSE in a Honduras school



W. C. LANE FROM BLACK STAR
OLD AND NEW along the Pan American Highway. When finished the highway will reach from Alaska to Argentina.

Southern Republics Are Lands of Contrast

Geography, People, Resources, Climate Are Marked by Sharp Differences

In observance of Pan American Day, April 14, this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and its companion publication, the Weekly News Review, is largely devoted to Latin America. For this reason many regular features have been omitted. The next issue will contain the customary material.

PAN American Day, observed each year on April 14, is set aside by the 20 Latin American republics and the United States to foster a spirit of friendship and cooperation in this hemisphere. The 21 nations are members of the Pan American Union and the Organization of American States, both of which work to encourage trade and cultural exchange among the countries. Through the Rio Pact, the 21 are pledged to come to one another's assistance in case any one of the nations is attacked.

Latin America stretches southward from the southern border of the United States, across Mexico, through Central America, and on to Cape Horn at the tip of South America. This vast area—it is more than three times the size of continental United States—is known as Latin America because most of its countries were colonies of Spain and Portugal—two of Europe's "Latin" countries.

Three Are Islands

Three of the Latin American nations—Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic—occupy islands in the West Indies. Ten—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela—are on the South American continent. Six—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama—are in Central America. Mexico, of course, is on the North American continent.

(Countries of South and Central America that are still controlled by European nations are not included in the term *Latin America*. These are: British Honduras; British, French, and Dutch Guiana; and numerous islands in the West Indies.)

Geographically, Latin America is an area of contrasts. It has vast plains and high mountains, some of the highest in the world; it includes dense jungles and arid deserts; its climate varies from the heat of the tropics to the cold temperatures of the far south.

The mountains along the western coasts of Latin America are one of the area's outstanding physical characteristics. These ranges—the Sierra Madre in Mexico and the Andes in South America—are a continuation of the mountain ranges in the western part of the United States.

The Latin American mountains, especially the Andes, have had a profound effect upon life in that area. In the tropics where the lowlands are hot and rainfall is heavy, most people live in the highlands.

Throughout much of South America, the Andes chain has prevented the development of railroads and highways to link the eastern and western coasts of the continent. Before the airplane came into common use, trade between east and west had to be carried on by sea. Even now, heavy materials must be shipped from one side of the continent to the other by boats

that go through the Panama Canal or around Cape Horn.

In several of the South American republics, Chile, Bolivia, and others, mountains cover almost the entire country and sharply limit the territory available for agriculture.

Three great river systems make up another of South America's outstanding physical characteristics. The Amazon with its many tributaries drains an area of more than 2.6 million square miles. The river is navigable for 2,300 miles and permits ocean-going vessels to go across the whole of Brazil to Iquitos, in Peru.

The 3 island republics are partially covered by mountains, but they have relatively large farming areas.

Fertile agricultural land is one of Latin America's chief resources. Perhaps the richest area is that which lies within a 300-mile radius around Buenos Aires. Wheat and corn grow abundantly (sometimes there are two crops of wheat a season) and the heavy grass of the pampas provides excellent grazing. Two regions in Brazil—the southern part of the country and the uplands along the Atlantic coast—are especially fertile.



LATIN AMERICA includes tropical forests, high mountains, and vast grasslands

The Orinoco and the Plata-Parana systems, though dwarfed by the Amazon, are still important rivers. The Orinoco, about 1,700 miles in length, flows through Venezuela and Colombia and provides a "highway" that is navigable for 700 miles inland.

The Parana and La Plata rivers together drain an area of more than a million square miles in southern Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. This system, too, is open for long distances to ocean-going ships.

The plains of Argentina—known as the pampas—are a third of South America's distinctive geographical characteristics. This area is fertile and supports extensive farming and grazing operations.

The other Latin American republics—those that are not located in South America—have similar physical features. The 6 nations in Central America are largely mountainous, with coastal lowlands that have a tropical climate. Much of Mexico is a plateau rimmed by mountains along the country's Atlantic and Pacific

coasts. The 3 island republics are partially covered by mountains, but they have relatively large farming areas.

Even the high valleys in such countries as Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Colombia have rich soils. Mexico's farming land is in the central plateau, though some of the area must be irrigated. Plateaus and valleys that lie high in the mountains provide the principal agricultural areas in the Central American republics, while the coastal plains of the island republics are their chief farming regions.

Because of the great differences in climate and soil, Latin America's agricultural products are extremely varied. Corn, wheat, coffee, beans, tobacco, cotton, and fruit are Mexico's leading crops. The Central American republics are sometimes called the "banana republics" because they lead in producing this fruit.

Argentina is noted for its wheat, corn, and cattle; Brazil for its coffee, cotton, rice, and cattle. The nations along South America's Pacific coast raise wheat, tobacco, cotton, and sugar in large quantities. Chile, for chewing gum, and the cacao bean, for cocoa and chocolate, are important products

in a number of the Latin American countries.

Forests are a second of Latin America's natural resources. Almost 40 per cent of the total land area in the 20 republics is covered with forests, but much of the timber is too far from transportation to be used. As a result, the area supplies only 1/20 of the world's supply of lumber. Other products of the forests are rubber, quebracho for tanning leather, palm oils, fibers for rope, and medicinal plants.

Minerals make up another of Latin America's resources. Gold, silver, copper, tin, iron ore, manganese, and petroleum lead the list. Again, though, transportation problems prevent the development of many of these resources. It costs five times as much, for instance, to get tin from Bolivian mines to ports on the Pacific as it does to ship the tin from Bolivia to Europe. And in Venezuela, two towns that are but 6 miles from one another by air are connected by a railway 23 miles long. The tracks make a 3,000-foot climb, use 15 bridges, and go through 8 tunnels.

The People

The contrasts among the people of Latin America are as great as are the contrasts of geography and climate. High in the mountains are Indian villages where life has changed but little since the 1500's when the first Spaniards arrived. The Indians live in thatched or adobe huts; their clothes are like those their tribesmen have worn for generations; their food—corn, beans, and a little meat, all highly seasoned—has not changed for years.

These Indians work in the mines or on the large estates owned by the more prosperous. At home, they spin and dye the yarn and weave cloth for their own garments. Their chief recreation comes on market days when they take their brightly colored wares to the market place and spend long hours talking with their friends. They also enjoy the religious festivals that they have kept alive from the early days of the Incas.

The prosperous Latin Americans, on the other hand, live much as we do in the United States. Their homes are modern; they follow the latest Paris styles in clothing; they are well educated.

It has been said that "living is an art" among the prosperous Latin Americans. Their lives move slowly. They will postpone closing a business deal for 2 or 3 hours while they discuss philosophy, music, or painting. Politeness is deep-rooted among them. Family ties are strong.

Latin America's population includes many racial types. In addition to descendants of the Indians and of the early Spaniards and Portuguese, there are Negroes, Japanese, and settlers from the countries of northern Europe. Often the races are blended in what may be called a new Latin American type—the Mestizo.

The gulf that lies between the upper and lower classes in Latin America is at the root of many of the area's problems. The magnitude of some of these problems and the efforts that are being made to overcome them are discussed in the pages that follow.

1. Manufacturing and Agriculture

SPECTACULAR changes are taking place in Latin America. Industrial development is surging ahead. More progress has been made in the last 15 years than in the entire preceding century.

Look at Sao Paulo, Brazil. Back in the 1920's it was a sleepy, little city, known as a center of the coffee trade. Today it is a thriving, modern metropolis, bigger than Philadelphia. Its 40,000 or so manufacturing plants make it the largest industrial city in South America.

Sao Paulo's Products

Among the many products of Sao Paulo are farm machinery, silk, automobiles, tires, and surgical bandages. Numerous big U. S. concerns, including General Motors, Ford, International Harvester, and Radio Corporation of America, have branch plants in this bustling city. In appearance, Sao Paulo has been described as "a combination of Detroit and Chicago."

In Chile is a brand-new steel mill which, in its first year of operation in 1951, sold more than 4 million dollars' worth of its products to the United States alone. Near the great port of Valparaiso, Chile is planning its first oil refinery. When it is completed, the government hopes to make use of proved oil deposits near the Straits of Magellan.

Colombia is expanding electric-power facilities. In Venezuela a match factory and rayon plants were set up last year, and the development of big iron-ore deposits is being pushed. Peru is developing what promises to be very rich copper deposits. Mexico's steel production and electric-power output are rising.

To be sure, there are many areas of Latin America which industry has not touched. In remote areas of Brazil, Paraguay, Honduras, Bolivia, and some other countries, modern industry is unknown—and probably will be for many years.

The important fact is, though, that the industrialization of the thickly settled areas of Latin America is under way in earnest. Industrial output has doubled in the last 10 years, and advances in the next 10 years may be even more spectacular.

While industry is on the upswing, farming is still the work of most of Latin America's people. Here the picture is not so bright as it is in indus-

try. One of Latin America's biggest problems is to produce enough food for its people.

Of course, a number of lands are noted for certain crops. Brazil is the world's largest producer of coffee. The thick grass found on the plains of both Argentina and Brazil fattens millions of head of beef cattle. Cuba expects to produce almost 6 million tons of sugar this year from the cane which grows so abundantly on that island. Costa Rica and other central American lands raise huge quantities of bananas.

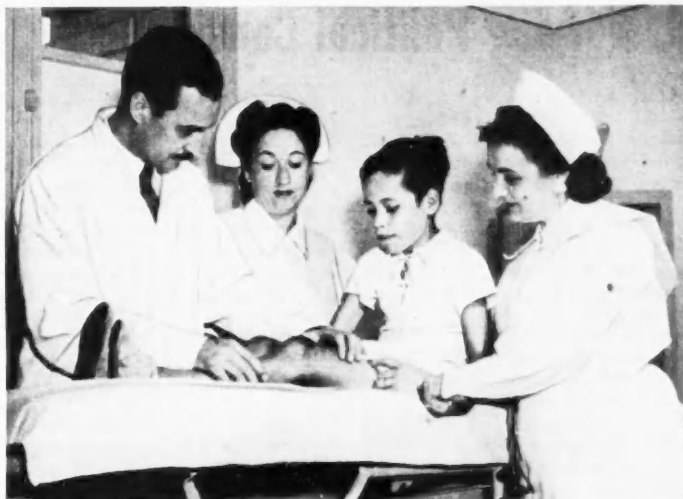
Most of these crops, however, are sent abroad, and some of them—coffee and bananas, for example—are hardly basic food crops. The unhappy fact is that food production is lagging. According to a United Nations survey, there will be less food per person produced in Latin America this year than in the years before World War II. "With some minor exceptions," said the UN group, "yields of the basic crops are the same as 15 years ago."

In short, population is increasing, but food production is not making an equal increase. Behind this situation is the fact that only five per cent of Latin American land is fit for cultivation. Mountains, jungles, and arid wastelands occupy great parts of the region. On land which is cultivated, the yield per acre is usually very low because of primitive farming methods.

Start Is Made

A start is being made to solve the food problem. Under our Point Four program of aid to underdeveloped lands, U. S. farm experts are teaching Latin Americans modern farming methods and showing them the value of modern machinery. For example, it was recently demonstrated in Peru that a single tractor drawing a steel plow could do the work in a little more than one hour that it took 35 men all day to do.

Progress along these lines is nevertheless slow. Many more Latin Americans must acquire the know-how of modern farming if the region is to become self-sufficient in food. Upon the solution of this problem may depend the whole economic future of Latin America. Factories can help to raise the standard of living, but they cannot do the job alone. A sound economy depends on farm, as well as factory, production.



A CLINIC in Uruguay. A lack of hospitals and shortages of trained nurses and doctors hold up medical progress in many Latin American countries. This youngster is lucky in having access to up-to-date hospital facilities.

2. Living Standards Are Rising

LATIN America is often regarded as a land of revolutions, but not all its upheavals are political. Our southern neighbors are undergoing a *social revolution* that is certain to have far-reaching results.

More and more, the Latin Americans are coming to recognize the benefits that they can gain through vigorous efforts in such fields as health and education. They are no longer content to let diseases take a needlessly heavy toll, or to let vast numbers of their people go through life without learning to read or write. They feel that living conditions in their countries can and must be improved.

Generally speaking, Latin American living standards lag far behind those of the United States, Canada, and western Europe, but the southern nations are trying to narrow the gap.

Take Mexico for example. At the time she won independence about 130 years ago, the vast majority of her inhabitants could not read or write. Efforts were made occasionally to promote education, but three fifths of the Mexican people were illiterate in 1930.

Drive for Literacy

During the last several years, however, Mexico's government has been waging a real campaign in the field of education. In the 1940's it launched a drive under which each person who could read and write was asked to teach someone who could not. At the same time, there were continued efforts to establish new schools. By now, possibly as few as one fifth of the Mexicans who are old enough to read cannot do so. The nation hopes to reduce the number of illiterates still further.

Brazil, one of the largest nations in the Western Hemisphere, has a huge educational job ahead of her. It is estimated that fewer than half of the Brazilian people can read and write. As in Mexico, however, the government has been working to overcome this fault. The number of primary schools was increased from 27,000 in 1930 to 60,000 in 1950. During the same period, the number of high schools rose from 300 to 1,500, and the number of vocational schools from 1,000 to 2,700.

Brazil also has serious health problems. Malaria, yellow fever, tubercu-

losis, typhoid, and leprosy affect large numbers of her people. Now, with the help of the United States, Brazil's government is waging war against disease. It is draining mosquito-infested swamps, installing sewer systems in towns and villages, and establishing new hospitals.

In Paraguay, also with U. S. help, there is a vigorous campaign against malnutrition. Farm women are being taught to improve their families' diets by raising and cooking green vegetables. Young Paraguayan women—experts in health and nutrition—travel many miles into remote neighborhoods to promote this idea and to assist farm families in numerous other ways.

U. S. assistance is a very big factor in the health programs and other welfare projects of our southern neighbors. In nearly all the Latin American countries, there are branches of a U. S. agency known as the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. This agency directs the Western Hemisphere portion of our nation's Point Four program of aid to underdeveloped countries. Not only does the Institute give aid in connection with health and education, but it also helps the Latin Americans to raise better crops, improve working conditions in their mines and factories, and carry out other projects.

A U. S. engineer, working for the Institute, visited a Bolivian cement plant some time ago and was shocked by what he found. "The dust was so thick you couldn't see ten feet," he commented. "There were no guard rails on the walk-ways." At his recommendation, numerous changes were put into effect—changes which made the plant a safer and healthier place to work, and which brought a 25 per cent boost in output.

Although the United States gives valuable help in connection with our southern neighbors' "social revolution," most of the work is done by Latin Americans themselves. The main job of the health experts, engineers, and other technicians whom we send southward, is to train skilled workers and teachers in the various countries involved. Also, many young Latin Americans are being brought to the United States for training in medicine, nursing, engineering, chemistry, agriculture, public health, and other lines.



AMERICAN-BUILT MACHINERY aids in Latin America's industrial development. The equipment above moves limestone at a cement plant in Chile.

3. Varying Political Conditions

LATIN America has had a stormy political history. It has been very difficult for orderly and democratic governments to get a foothold in the nations that lie south of us.

There are a number of reasons for this. In the first place, most of the Latin American lands were under oppressive rule during their colonial days, and their people had little chance to learn about the traditions of political freedom and democracy. Furthermore, it is extremely difficult—nearly impossible—for stable, democratic governments to flourish in countries where there are great extremes of wealth and poverty, and where there are large numbers of uneducated people. Such conditions have always existed in most parts of Latin America.

Practically all our southern neighbors have constitutions which call for democratic systems of government, but in numerous cases these constitutions are not closely followed. In actual practice, many of the Latin American governments are dictatorships—run by men who keep themselves in office by force or through rigged elections, or by a combination of both.

One of the dictatorial leaders is General Fulgencio Batista of Cuba, who seized power about a month ago.



Batista
Cuba

Batista was a candidate for President in the Cuban elections that were to have been held later this year, but he apparently decided that he could not get into office through a regular election. So, with the help of some army leaders, he simply seized control of the government.



Vargas
Brazil

In Cuba and elsewhere, feelings about Batista's rise to power are mixed. On the one hand, there is considerable regret that a constitutionally elected regime has been replaced by a military "strong man." According to many people, on the other hand, there was so much corruption in the previous administration that Batista's rule might eventually lead to something better for the people of Cuba.

The Dominican Republic, situated on an island not far from Cuba, is ruled by another "iron man"—Rafael Leonidas Trujillo y Molina. President Trujillo (in Latin America, a person does not necessarily put his principal family name last) took charge of the government in 1930 and has controlled it ever since. His administration has done a great deal for the Dominican Republic—building roads and irrigation systems, establishing schools, and so on. However, he gives his opponents practically no real chance to vote him out of power.

One of the best-known political fig-

ures in the Western Hemisphere is Argentina's President Juan Peron. He rose to power in the Argentine government at the close of World War II, was elected President in 1946, and was re-elected last year. Peron is supported by large numbers of Argentine people, but he doesn't take chances on the development of a strong opposition movement. He suppresses his opponents with dictatorial methods.

Meanwhile, one can find a number of Latin American countries where democratic ideas appear to be making headway. Take Brazil for example. Getulio Vargas ruled that country as a dictator for a period of about 15 years, ending in 1945. Last year he returned to power—but not as a dictator. He had won the presidency in a free and orderly election in which 8 million voted.

Miguel Aleman, whose six-year term as President of Mexico comes to an end soon, is widely hailed as one of the best and most democratic chief executives that the Mexicans have ever had. Also drawing to a close is the administration of Chile's President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, who obtained office through a "fair and square" election in 1946.

In little Uruguay this year, an interesting political experiment is starting. The people of that country, which is generally regarded as one of the most progressive in Latin America, recently voted to abolish the office of President. In its place, the nation is to have a council of nine citizens, elected every four years. In addition to this council, Uruguay will continue to have a cabinet and a national legislature.

Under the new arrangement, many people believe, it will be more difficult for any individual to seize too much power and become a dictator. Opponents of the move argue that the council system may lead to confusion and thus increase the danger of eventual dictatorship in Uruguay.

There are no communist governments in Latin America, but communist influence is strong in some countries—particularly Guatemala. Latin American communists, like those in other parts of the world, play upon the discontent of people who are impoverished and underprivileged. Also, they try to spread the idea that the United States is seeking to dominate her neighbors south of the border. The majority of Latin Americans, however, appear to be skeptical of the communists, and to regard our country as their friend. Several countries have taken strong action to lessen communist influence.



Aleman
Mexico



Peron
Argentina



Gonzales
Chile



Trujillo
Dominican Rep.



BRAZILIAN SOLDIERS. Troops of the Latin American nations are an important part of the western world's defenses against communist aggression.

4. Military Plans for the Americas

IN a former mansion on Sixteenth Street in Washington, a small group of men are quietly planning the defense of the Americas. The group consists of military, naval, and aviation experts from the Latin American lands and from the United States. These men are members of the Inter-American Defense Board.

The group has received little publicity. In the public eye its work has been overshadowed by the development of the defense forces within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Inter-American Defense Board gets along on a small budget—about \$200,000 a year—yet its work is tremendously important. Its plan for hemisphere defense would immediately go into effect in case of the outbreak of a global war.

Specific details of the plan are, of course, military secrets. However, the broad aim of the Defense Board is to figure out ways of defending our coast lines and protecting supply lines. It aims for full military cooperation among the American republics.

Although the United States is the largest and strongest nation in the group, the Latin American lands are in a position to make a big contribution to hemisphere security. The defense of the Panama Canal, for instance, depends to a high degree on the availability of air and naval bases in the Caribbean area. Air routes from the United States to many other parts of the world touch Latin America. In the last war, Recife, on the eastern coast of Brazil, was a particularly important station in the air-ferrying route across the South Atlantic.

Latin America is also important in a military way for its supplies of strategic raw materials. It is thought that Brazil has the greatest reserves of iron ore in the world. This country also has extensive supplies of manganese, the vital material used in making steel, and it could, if necessary, produce vast quantities of natural rubber. Scarce materials like copper, quinine, and uranium are also found in the lands to the south. Great quantities of oil are found in the Caribbean area.

Latin America's manpower must not be overlooked. The combined popula-

tion of the United States and Latin America is more than 300 million. It is plain to see that the efforts of this group, if directed into a common war effort, could go far toward offsetting population advantages held by the communists in other parts of the world.

It has already been decided that—in case of a global war—each country will take the responsibility for guarding supply lines and bases within its own boundaries. This represents a step forward from World War II. At that time, thousands of U. S. military personnel were stationed in Latin America, patrolling the coasts and defending supply lines. Should another global conflict take place, these thousands would be released for duty elsewhere.

Past Experiences

In formulating its present plan, the Inter-American Defense Board has drawn heavily on its experiences in World War II. It was at that time—early in 1942—that the agency was set up. Most Latin American countries lined up with the United States promptly after Pearl Harbor, and the new planning group did valuable work in coordinating hemisphere defenses.

So successful were its efforts that the Inter-American Defense Board was one of the few wartime agencies which kept going after the conflict had ended. As steps were taken to strengthen the ties among the American republics, the work of the group assumed increasing importance. When the 21 American republics set up the Organization of American States at Bogota, Colombia, in 1948, the Inter-American Defense Board was made the agency for planning the collective defense of the member countries.

The members of the Board intended at first to have their hemisphere defense plans completed in 1956. However, the job was speeded up after the outbreak of the Korean war had unmistakably shown the seriousness of the communist threat. Today the degree of military cooperation which has been achieved by the 21 American republics should give any aggressively inclined country reason to think twice before trying to attack this hemisphere.

"King of Waters"

THE famous Amazon River of Brazil is often called the "King of Waters." Together with its tributaries it is about 3,900 miles in length. Although a little shorter than our Mississippi-Missouri system, the Amazon is as much as 100 feet deep and, at its mouth, 150 miles wide. It is claimed that the Amazon holds more water between its banks than do three great rivers together—the Mississippi, the Nile in Egypt, and the Yangtze in China.

The Amazon rises in the Andes Mountains in Peru, only about 100 miles from the Pacific Ocean. It then winds eastward through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean.

From its mouth, the Amazon empties hundreds of thousands of gallons of fresh water into the salty Atlantic. Sailors say they can lower buckets from ships and draw up the fresh water—even while out of sight of land—before it is mixed with the salt water of the sea.

When the ocean tides come in to the river's mouth, the current changes. Walls of water twice as high as a man are pushed up the river with a tremendous roar. Fear of these walls kept an early Spanish explorer, Vincente Pinzon, from entering the river in 1500.

On its way to the Atlantic, the Amazon passes through Brazil's tropical forests. Trees in this jungle are often 100 feet high. Tropical vines and shrubs crowd around the trees. In many parts of the jungle, it is almost impossible to cut a path. By contrast there are also thriving cities and rich plantations along the river.

The jungle is a dangerous place. There are pumas, jaguars, and other animals. There are snakes, too—the giant anaconda, which may be 30 feet long, and the boa constrictor, which is often nearly 15 feet long. Gaily colored birds are also found in the region.

LATIN AMERICA stretches from the United States to the tip of Chile



QUICK FACTS ABOUT LATIN AMERICA

Country	Population	Area in square miles	Principal exports
ARGENTINA	17,098,000	1,079,965	meat, wool, grain
BOLIVIA	3,990,000	416,040	tin, lead, silver
BRAZIL	52,645,000	3,291,416	coffee, cotton, cacao
CHILE	5,862,000	286,323	copper, nitrate, wool
COLOMBIA	11,260,000	439,714	coffee, petroleum, bananas
COSTA RICA	795,000	19,238	coffee, bananas, cacao
CUBA	5,415,000	44,217	sugar, tobacco, minerals
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2,121,000	19,327	sugar, cacao, coffee
ECUADOR	3,077,000	104,510	coffee, cacao, bananas
GUATEMALA	2,787,000	45,452	coffee, bananas, chicle
HAITI	3,111,000	10,748	coffee, sisal, sugar
HONDURAS	1,534,000	59,145	bananas, coffee, silver
MEXICO	25,368,000	758,061	cotton, lead, coffee
NICARAGUA	1,503,000	57,143	coffee, gold, sesame
PANAMA	802,000	28,575	bananas, abaca, cattle
PARAGUAY	1,406,000	154,165	hides, timber, cotton
PERU	8,406,000	482,133	cotton, sugar, petroleum
EL SALVADOR	1,890,000	13,176	coffee, sugar, gold
URUGUAY	2,650,000	72,172	wool, meat, hides
VENEZUELA	4,986,000	352,143	petroleum, coffee, cacao

Study Guide

Latin America

1. Why are the 20 independent nations to the south known as "Latin" American countries?
2. Describe briefly the effect the Andes Mountains have had on life in South America.
3. Why are some of the rivers in South America often spoken of as "important highways"?
4. Where are some of Latin America's most fertile agricultural lands located?
5. Although the southern nations have extensive forest resources, why do they produce a relatively small part of the world's lumber?
6. What are some of the area's outstanding minerals?
7. Describe briefly the way in which some of Latin America's Indians live. Name other important racial groups in the region.
8. Are most Latin Americans poor, moderately well-to-do, or rich? Explain.
9. In what ways are the Latin American countries associated with the United States?
10. Why has it been hard for orderly and democratic governments to get a foothold in Latin America?
11. Describe political conditions in the following countries: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Uruguay.
12. What are the duties of the Inter-American Defense Board?
13. Why is Latin America important in a military way to the United States?
14. Tell how Mexico and Brazil have been trying to raise educational standards.
15. How is the United States helping Latin America solve its health problems?
16. What developments have taken place on the industrial scene?
17. How is Latin America trying to solve its food problem?
18. List some of the heroes of the independence movement which swept through Latin America in the early 1800's.
19. What warning did the United States issue by means of the Monroe Doctrine?
20. Describe how U. S. policy toward Latin America has changed in recent years.

Miscellaneous

1. Who is General Alfred Gruenther, and why has he recently been in the news?
2. What are some arguments for and against continuing with the truce talks in Korea?
3. Who seem to be the outstanding candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination?
4. How did the free nations answer Russia's latest proposal on a German settlement?
5. Why do some observers think of Aneurin Bevan and General Charles de Gaulle as "troublemakers"?

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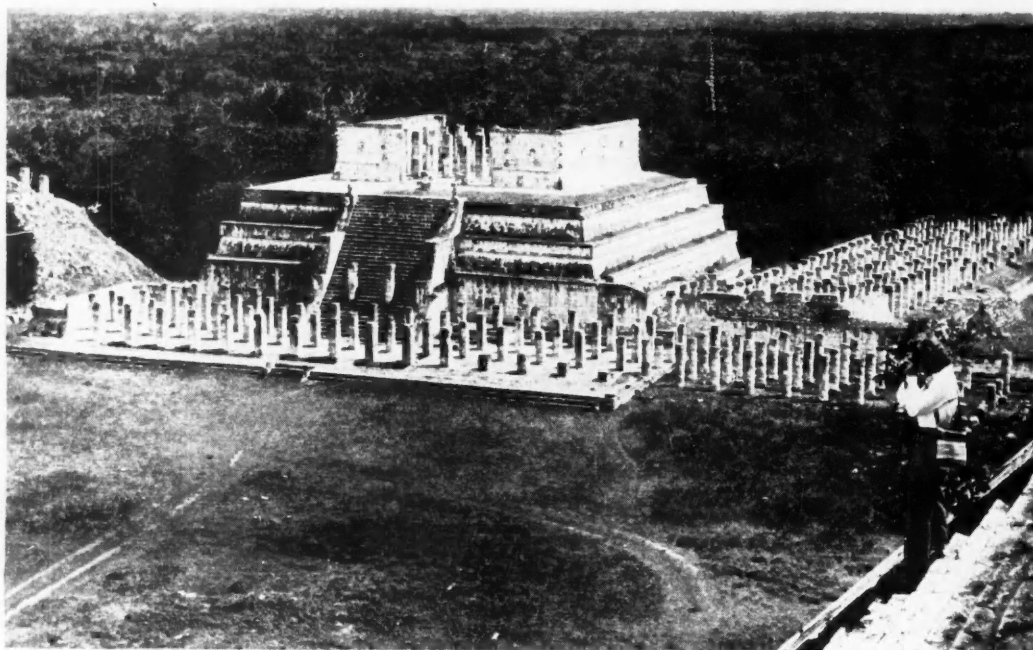
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Pronunciations

Fulgencio Batista—fool-hen'see-ō bah-tēs'tah
Gabriel Gonzalez Videla—gah-brē-cl' gone-sah'tēs ve-dē'lāh
Cetulio Vargas—zhē-tōō'lyōō vahr'gus
Juan Peron—hwahn pe-rawn'
Miguel Aleman—mē-gel' ah-lē-mahn'
Rafael Leonidas Trujillo y Molina—rah-fah-cl' lē-ō-nē'dahs trōō-hē'yō ē mō-lē-nah

(Geographic and historic names used in this issue can be found in a dictionary.)



TEMPLE OF THE WARRIORS at Chichen Itza in Mexico. Ruins like this in different parts of Latin America recall early Indian civilizations.

Historical Backgrounds - - Southern Republics

LONG before white men came to the Western Hemisphere, Latin America supported great Indian civilizations. Centered in Peru was the powerful Inca empire. In Central America and southern Mexico were the Mayas, builders of massive structures whose ruins are today regarded with awe. The Toltecs had a highly organized society in Mexico between 700 and 1100 A.D.

After the Toltec civilization crumbled, it was followed by the Aztec, which was still in existence when European explorers came to America. Not long after the arrival of Columbus, in 1492, explorers and adventurers conquered the Indians and seized large sections of the New World for Spain and other European powers.

Leaders of Conquest

Foremost among the Spanish conquerors were Francisco Pizarro, who defeated the Incas of Peru, and Hernando Cortez, who crushed the Aztecs in what is now Mexico. After 1500, nearly all the present-day Latin American lands became colonial territories of Spain. The main exception was Brazil, which developed under Portuguese rule. Uruguay was controlled by Portugal for a while, but was taken by Spain in the 1700's. Haiti and the Dominican Republic were successively under Spain and France.

Not long after our own country obtained its freedom from Britain, a great independence movement swept through Latin America. Some of the heroes of this drive were Simon Bolivar, who helped liberate the northwestern and central parts of South America; Jose de San Martin, who crossed the Andes from Argentina and attacked the Spaniards on South America's west coast; Bernardo

O'Higgins, the "George Washington of Chile"; and the priest Hidalgo, who died for Mexican independence.

Most of the Latin American countries won their freedom from European powers in the early 1800's. Cuba, however, remained a Spanish territory until 1898, and then was governed by the United States until 1902.

It was in 1822 that the United States began recognizing her new southern neighbors as independent countries. In the following year, 1823, U. S. President James Monroe and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams set forth the famous Monroe Doctrine. Through it, they warned all the governments of Europe against seeking to get control over any of the new western nations. The American continents, said the United States, were "not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers."

The Monroe Doctrine did not get much attention during the period immediately following its announcement, but it acquired great importance later. Our government took a firm stand in 1865, for instance, when France was trying to set up a Mexican empire.

In the early 1900's, as the United States became increasingly powerful, a new idea was added to the Monroe Doctrine. President Theodore Roosevelt noted that turmoil in Latin American states often tempted European countries to violate the Doctrine and meddle in Western Hemisphere affairs. To lessen the danger of European intervention, he concluded, *the United States itself* might need to keep order—temporarily—in Latin American nations whose governments had broken down.

Under this policy, our government assumed the job of collecting customs

revenues for the Dominican Republic in the early 1900's, and U. S. Marines occupied that country from 1916 to 1924. We had Marines in Haiti from 1915 to 1934, and officials from the United States controlled many of the Haitian government's activities during part of that period. U. S. Marines were stationed in Nicaragua nearly all the time from 1912 to 1933. Under a special agreement with Cuba, we sent troops to cope with some uprisings in that nation. We sent a military expedition to Mexico in 1916-17.

Caused Resentment

These U. S. actions caused deep resentment in Latin America. Our southern neighbors did not feel that the United States was justified in taking such steps.

In the 1920's and 1930's, however, our nation changed its attitude. Under the "Good Neighbor Policy" (a phrase popularized by Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt) we launched genuine efforts to win friends in the Western Hemisphere. We gave up the practice of sending U. S. troops to keep order in other American countries. In 1933, President Roosevelt declared, "The definite policy of the United States from now on is one opposed to armed intervention."

Today, instead of trying to take it upon ourselves to police and protect the Western Hemisphere, we accept the idea of promoting peace and security through cooperation with the other countries of the Americas. For this purpose, we helped establish the 21-member Organization of American States (OAS) in 1948. The Pan American Union, an association of Western Hemisphere countries that was formed in 1890, now serves as the central agency of the OAS.

The Story of the Week

NOTICE

In accordance with its usual practice, *The American Observer* will not publish an issue on the Monday which coincides with the Easter holiday. Consequently, no paper will be published this year on April 14th. The next issue will appear on April 21st.

General Gruenther

Russia is not likely to launch an attack on Europe if we quickly build up the continent's military defenses. With these words, General Alfred Gruenther recently asked congressmen to support President Truman's proposed eight-billion-dollar foreign aid program. Gruenther is the right-hand man of General Dwight Eisenhower, military chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's forces.

The soft-spoken, almost shy Chief of Staff may be Eisenhower's successor when "Ike" decides to return home to campaign for the U. S. Presidency. Both men are strong supporters of American aid to our allies in Europe and in other parts of the world.



Gruenther

Eisenhower. Once General Ike called him his "right arm."

When members of Congress asked General Gruenther if it was absolutely essential to provide the full amount of foreign aid requested by the Truman administration, he replied that, in his opinion, we might be seriously hurt if we gave a smaller sum than that asked for by the President.

Military vs. Civilian Goods

There is considerable argument over how well our nation's defense production program is being managed. The dispute was under way long before Charles E. Wilson resigned—about a week ago—from the job of



AFTER THE STORM. A resident of Judsonia, Arkansas, bundles her three-year-old son in her arms as she sits amid the wreckage of her home. The giant twisters that roared across 6 southern states recently left devastation behind.

Defense Mobilization Chief, and it is sure to continue.

One of the main points of conflict is whether we are devoting enough effort to the output of military goods. Some observers contend that the defense production program is being allowed to bog down, while our factories continue to pour out a great flood of luxury products for civilians. Other observers maintain that the military build-up is progressing satisfactorily and that a sharp reduction in civilian output at this time would be very harmful to the economic life of the nation.

This dispute, however, was not the immediate cause of Mr. Wilson's resignation. He quit because of a disagreement with President Truman over wages and prices in the steel industry. Steelworkers have been demanding wage increases, and Wilson felt that—if the pay boost were granted—the government should allow steel companies to raise the prices of their products. President Truman was reluctant to approve the price increase.

After Wilson resigned, the difficult job of Mobilization Director was taken over, for the time being, at least, by John R. Steelman. Mr. Steelman has long served as a trouble shooter for President Truman.

Ten Months of Talking

The truce talks in rain-soaked, muddy Korea will start their tenth month next Thursday.

Late last month, the UN tried to hasten an agreement on at least one hotly debated issue—plans for prisoner exchanges—by putting the talks under a temporary news blackout. It was hoped that the Reds would speak more freely if the world spotlight of publicity were taken off the negotiations. As of last week, however, no new agreements had been reported.

Meanwhile, more and more Americans are asking for a speedy end to the Korean conflict. They argue:

"Let's stop talking in Korea and use the threat of military force to get the enemy to make peace. If we don't act swiftly, the Reds may continue to haggle over a truce until they are strong enough to smash our armies in the Far Eastern land."

Other citizens believe we should continue to discuss peace with the communists. They contend:

"We have been making some truce progress in past months, and with patient efforts we may yet be able to end the Korean fighting. Anyway, we do not have sufficient military power in the Far East to risk an all-out war with the powerful, combat-ready Communist forces."

A German Treaty?

Germany's most crucial hour, since that land was divided into free and Soviet areas at the end of World War II, may now have arrived. That is the opinion of the *New York Times* in discussing the exchange of German proposals between Moscow and the democracies.

Last month, the communists dramatically announced a call for a four-power meeting of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia to write a German peace treaty. The Soviets demanded a unified Germany on their terms: withdrawal of all occupation troops, disarmament rights for the former enemy country, and guarantees that Germany will not join forces with her free neighbors for defense.

Many democratic leaders feel Russia has made these proposals chiefly to disrupt western plans to make Ger-

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Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This text covers the issues of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* dated March 10, 17, 24, and 31. The answer key appears in the April 7 issue of *The Civic Leader*. **Scoring:** If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. One step which France and Western Germany are planning to take in face of the Soviet threat is to (a) make Paris the capital of both countries; (b) merge their armed forces in the European Defense Community; (c) build a line of fortifications across western France; (d) make German the official language of both countries.

2. In the 1948 Presidential election, the proportion of the U. S. voting population that actually cast ballots was about (a) 89 per cent; (b) 75 per cent; (c) 51 per cent; (d) 38 per cent.

3. Senator Blair Moody of Michigan has proposed to increase the number of voters by (a) eliminating registration and residence requirements; (b) permitting all young people to vote at 18; (c) making it compulsory for all U. S. residents to vote; (d) spreading federal elections over a period of three days.

4. Which one of the following is considered a Russian satellite country? (a) Norway; (b) Yugoslavia; (c) Greece; (d) Czechoslovakia.

5. One way in which Russia maintains control over her satellites is by (a) placing many Soviet officials in key positions in the satellite governments; (b) convincing all people in these lands of the advantages of communism; (c) paying these nations generously for manufactured goods and raw materials; (d) giving the satellite countries complete freedom of speech and action.

6. A study of voting records of the present Congress shows that the party which is putting the greatest emphasis on reducing government spending is the (a) Labor Party; (b) Republicans; (c) Democrats; (d) Alaskans.

7. Early this year President Truman asked Congress to (a) discontinue all economic aid to other lands; (b) reduce economic aid by 5 billion dollars but increase military aid by the same amount; (c) end all foreign aid except to the Philippine Islands; (d) supply about 2½ billion dollars for economic aid to friendly nations during the next year.

8. A major purpose of congressional investigations is to (a) decide whether laws go against the Constitution; (b) sentence criminals; (c) produce entertainment for television viewers; (d) assist congressmen in gathering facts that will help them in drawing up future bills.

9. Last month a former dictator seized control of the government in (a) France; (b) Indonesia; (c) Cuba; (d) Italy.

10. The big reason for the economic troubles Israel is having today is (a) the tremendous increase in population in recent years; (b) the fact that she sells to other countries far more than she buys from them; (c) unemployment affecting more than half the population; (d) complete lack of a school system.

11. To meet the present economic crisis, Israel aims to (a) join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; (b) expand its commerce, industry, and agriculture; (c) stop all immigration after May 1, 1952; (d) close up its factories and concentrate on farming.

12. A family halfway between top and bottom on our nation's economic ladder today has a yearly money income of about (a) \$3,000; (b) \$1,100; (c) \$10,000; (d) \$721.

13. Recent surveys show that (a) more Americans had refrigerators in 1940 than have them today; (b) U. S. incomes have generally dropped about 8 per cent in the past 10 years; (c) most American fami-

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WHEN HE HEARD that Korea's schools needed educational toys, Dr. Paul Hanna (second from left) opened his workshop to students at Stanford University so they could make toys for the Koreans. He and a group of students are shown above as they add bright colors to finish the products.

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

lies today have a higher standard of living than they did 15 or 20 years ago; (d) more than half of American families earn at least \$7,500 a year.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the statement.

14. In all states except Georgia, the age at which young people can first vote is _____.

15. Voting records of Congress show that the U. S. political party which has been most in favor of extending economic and military aid to friendly nations is the _____.

16. Clara Barton was the founder of the American _____.

17. An American territory which recently approved a new constitution is _____.

18. Bills to grant statehood to Hawaii and _____ have been under study by Senate committees.

19. Harold Stassen is seeking to be the nominee of the _____ Party for President.

20. The Schuman Plan is intended to unify the coal and _____ industries of France, Germany, and four other nations.

21. Early this month, the Queen of _____ arrived in the United States for a visit.

22. Tel Aviv and Haifa are two rapidly growing cities in _____.

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

23. Konrad Adenauer
24. Douglas MacArthur
25. Antoine Pinay
26. Richard Russell
27. Fulgencio Batista
28. David Ben-Gurion

A. Pacific war hero mentioned as possible Republican Presidential nominee.

B. Prime Minister of Austria.

C. Candidate for Democratic Presidential nomination.

D. Chancellor of Western Germany.

E. Prime Minister of Israel.

F. Head of government of Cuba.

G. French political leader who became Premier last month.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that most closely defines the word in italics.

29. Poor government is *inevitable* if people don't vote. (a) possible (b) unavoidable (c) appropriate (d) probable.

30. *Cogent* arguments were put forth in support of the bill. (a) spread (b) scientific (c) original (d) persuasive.

31. Soviet propaganda is *disseminated* throughout Europe. (a) spread (b) accepted (c) barred (d) discussed.

32. *Sagacious* leaders are needed in troubled times. (a) congressional (b) aggressive (c) wise (d) national.

33. A man's *integrity* may be questioned. (a) ability (b) honesty (c) age (d) intelligence.



OPERATION LONG HORN, biggest Army-Air Force maneuver since World War II, is under way in Texas. The operation covers an 1,800-square-mile area and includes 115,000 men. Troops are shown here as they were loaded on a transport to be flown from South Carolina to the maneuvers.

Story of the Week

(Continued from page 1)

many a defense partner in Europe. Therefore, the free nations answered the Soviets in this way:

"We should like to discuss a German peace settlement, but we cannot do so on your terms. All Germans must be given a chance to vote freely for a government of their choice before their divided land can be united. Moreover, Germany should be allowed to rearm only if she joins her neighbors in a defense team."

It remains to be seen what Russia's next move will be on the German issue.

Threat to Defense?

Two men—British Labor Member of Parliament Aneurin Bevan, and French General Charles de Gaulle—may some day become a real threat to the cooperative defense effort of the free nations, some observers believe. Each of the two leaders severely criticizes his country's defense and military programs, though for different reasons.

Bevan, a self-educated former Welsh coal miner, is the aggressive leader of a Labor Party group which opposes



BRITISH INFO SERVICES



N. B. E.

TROUBLEMAKERS? Aneurin Bevan (left), British Socialist and Charles de Gaulle of France may soon challenge western defense plans.

Britain's rearmament program. The 54-year-old Bevan argues that England should not slash its social-welfare program to buy defense weapons. His opponent's say Bevan's proposals would dangerously weaken England and the free world. Bevan, however, hopes to gain enough support to some day become Prime Minister.

On the other side of the English Channel, General de Gaulle is also waiting for a chance to take over his country's shaky government. The general heads a powerful group in France—the Rally of the French People.

General de Gaulle is a bitter foe of communism. Nevertheless, he opposes the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's efforts to weld democratic lands into a fighting team against the Red menace. Western countries should cooperate, de Gaulle says, but each country should develop its own strength.

Political Development

Since President Truman announced about 10 days ago that he would not run for another term as President, there has been much speculation over who will be the Democratic nominee. Party leaders are conferring, trying to agree on a man who can make the best showing in next November's election. The final choice will be made by the delegates at the party's convention in Chicago in July.

Meanwhile, the President's announcement has given new impetus to the campaigns being waged by various Democratic candidates. Among those who are showing that they have considerable popular support are Senators Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and Richard Russell of Georgia. Another name high on the list of Democratic favorites is Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, although he is not—as these words are written—actively seeking the nomination. Many observers predict that the Democratic convention may be a free-for-all contest.

Iron Curtain Trade

With great fanfare, Russia opened a world trade conference in Moscow last Thursday. The Soviets invited industrialists and public leaders from many different countries, including the United States. Most democratic officials, however, turned down the communist invitation because they feared Russia would use the Moscow parley as a propaganda sounding board.

Free leaders believe the Soviets are now desperately trying to bolster Russia's faltering trade with western nations. The communist lands badly need machinery and raw materials from us, it is said. A recent United Nations world trade report, for example, shows that the flow of vital goods to Soviet-controlled areas has almost stopped completely.

CARE Honor Roll

Here is another report on how American schools, in response to a recent

article in this paper and associated publications, are donating money to CARE's program of sending plows and farm tools to India, Pakistan, and Greece. CARE's Washington, D. C., office tells of receiving donations from the following:

Manatee County High School, Bradenton, Florida.

Clayton High School, Clayton, Missouri.

Charlotte High School, Charlotte, Michigan.

Mission High School, St. Ignace, Montana.

Thomas A. Edison School, Dearborn, Michigan.

Lincoln Park High School, Lincoln Park, Michigan.

Osborn High School, Osborn, Missouri.

Annie Wright Seminary, Tacoma, Washington.

Seneca Cons. School, Fenton, Iowa.

Marshall High School, Marshall, Missouri.

Saranac Lake High School, Saranac Lake, New York.

Chetek High School, Chetek, Wisconsin.

Pimento High School, Pimento, Indiana.

Bossier High School, Bossier City, Louisiana.

Collins High School, Oak Hill, West Virginia.

A \$10 donation will buy four hand-tools—a pitchfork, weeding hoe, mattock, and shovel. For \$17.50, CARE can send a plow. Contributions may be sent to CARE, Inc., Dupont Circle Building, Washington 6, D. C.

SMILES



"No! No! You make it sound like the 'Plight of the Bumblebee'!"

A Montana cowboy recently saw his first Western movie, and he became so excited that he fainted.

Fond Mother (watching 2-year-old son): "He's been walking like that for almost a year."

Bored Visitor: "Amazing! Can't you make him sit down?"

Joe: "See that boy over there annoying Mary?"

Jim: "Why, he isn't even looking at her."

Joe: "That's what's annoying her."

The customer admired the cuckoo clock which was shown to her. When the clerk asked if she would take it, the lady paused and said, "I think not. You see, I'm always forgetting to wind the clock I have now, and I'm afraid I'd forget about this clock and let the little bird starve."

Professor: "What is your idea of civilization?"

Soph: "I think it's a very good idea. Somebody ought to try it."

"Yes, madam," said the postal clerk, "this package is all right. As a matter of fact, you have three cents too much postage on it."

"Oh, dear," she answered, "I hope it won't go too far."